



Legacy of disasters: The impact of climate change on children

Author(s): Save the Children UK
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Abstract:

Executive summary: The evidence is clear: global warming is a fact, and it will have a dramatic impact on humankind. The likely effects of this warming – increasingly frequent and severe natural disasters, temperature extremes, a global rise in the sea levels – will be unevenly felt and will hit children in developing countries hardest of all. Yet despite political rhetoric about children being our future, the scale of the threat faced by today's children is barely acknowledged. When the danger to future generations of children is assessed, it becomes clear that the need for international action focused on children and climate change is vital. Quick facts: climate change and children. - In the next decade, up to 175 million children are likely to be affected every year by the kinds of natural disasters brought about by climate change. 1 - The percentage of the world's population exposed to malaria, one of the biggest killers of children under the age of five, is expected to increase from 45 per cent to 60 per cent in the next 100 years due to climate change. 2 - By 2010, there will be 50 million 'environmentally displaced people', most of whom will be women and children. 3 Climate change will compound existing threats to children's health, food security, livelihoods, protection and education, and will lead to the degradation of natural resources. In the current and future landscape of increased disasters and increased vulnerability, governments, humanitarian agencies and the wider international community must back measures designed to help children and their communities prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change. Such measures should be built into village, regional, national and international planning. Governments must also take united, ambitious and determined action to reduce the carbon emissions responsible for climate change. As children make up approximately 50 per cent of those affected by disasters,⁴ all Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies must have an adequate assessment of children's needs and rights violations, and must involve children in the design and implementation of solutions. Not only will this decrease the specific risks children face, but it also will ensure their participation and, as a result, increase their capacity and confidence to cope with disaster. Furthermore, children are key to addressing both disaster risk reduction and climate change issues – children as leaders and activists can bring about major changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices.

Source: http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/docs/legacy-of-disasters_1.pdf

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker, Public

Other Communication Audience: Funding donors

Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Sea Level Rise, Temperature

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Other Extreme Event

Extreme Weather Event (other): Windstorms

Food/Water Security: Fisheries

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal, Urban

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact, Infectious Disease, Injury, Malnutrition/Undernutrition

Infectious Disease: Vectorborne Disease

Vectorborne Disease: Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Malaria

Intervention:

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

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Adaptation, Mitigation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: ☒

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Low Socioeconomic Status, Pregnant Women

Resource Type: ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Review

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: ☒

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content